

A RESOLUTION to name the new state veterans' home in
Humboldt in honor of W.D. "Bill" Manning, former
Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

WHEREAS, our country was conceived by individuals willing to fight and sometimes give their lives for this nation's freedom and the Volunteer State is especially proud to have so many valiant men who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" D. Manning is one such outstanding and gallant Tennessean who deserves proper recognition for his heroism both in battle and in society today; and

WHEREAS, having observed the great and time-honored spirit of Tennessee volunteerism and sacrifice for one's country, Mr. Manning is a 100% combat-wounded bilateral amputee who, on the day he was wounded, was searching for an enemy mortar position near the Cambodian border when ambushed by North Vietnamese troops; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Manning was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and has miraculously overcome his handicap; and

WHEREAS, Bill Manning not only helps design and develop prosthetic devices to help improve the capability and the quality of life of others, but he is also very active in the development of sports for the handicapped; and

WHEREAS, his invention of the Accru-hook has broadened the horizons of more than 100,000 American amputees and thousands more around the world; and

WHEREAS, chosen as one of the top eight citizens in the nation for his work with employment of the handicapped, Mr. Manning was Director of the Governor's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped; and

WHEREAS, in recognition and respect for Bill Manning's accomplishments and dedication to service, Governor Ned McWerter appointed Mr. Manning as Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, a position in which he served with the utmost dedication and integrity for eight productive years; and

WHEREAS, as Commissioner, Mr. Manning helped pour \$500 million annually into Tennessee's economy through federal benefits for the 528,000 veterans living in the state; and

WHEREAS, in this essential position, Bill Manning earned undying respect and admiration from all quarters of state government, as a result of his ability as an administrator and his confidence and acuity as a leader; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and honors, Mr. Manning is a highly decorated Vietnam veteran; and

WHEREAS, W.D. Manning, Jr. retired from the United States Army with the rank of sergeant first class in 1970 and has received the Silver Star for Heroism, the Bronze Star for Valor, two Bronze Stars for Meritorious Service, two Purple Hearts for wounds in battle, Army Commendation and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry; and

WHEREAS, a very active DAV member, Mr. Manning is a partial life member of Chapter 98, Department of Tennessee; he was unanimously approved to the department-level position of Department Legislative Liaison Officer for the Disabled American Veterans; and

WHEREAS, totally dedicated to furthering the causes of his fellow veterans, Commissioner Manning is also a life member of Humboldt Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 4728 and a member of Bradford American Legion Post No. 71; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bill Manning is one of Tennessee's most exemplary citizens who has given unreservedly of himself to ensure and protect the blessed freedom we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully experience for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Manning was instrumental in the development of the first state veterans' home in Murfreesboro and the new state veterans' home in Humboldt; these

state-of-the-art facilities provide quality medical and nursing care, and in some instances, a home for the brave veterans of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Humboldt have expressed a desire to name the new state veterans' home in honor of Bill Manning for his unwavering support of his fellow veterans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly has always endeavored to honor the wishes of local governments whenever it is feasible to do so; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That in appreciation of his impeccable service to his fellow veterans and his illustrious tenure as Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, the new state veterans' home in Humboldt is hereby named in honor of W.D. "Bill" Manning, a courageous and valiant citizen of this great nation and state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Veterans Affairs is hereby directed to erect suitable signs designating the new state veterans' home in Humboldt as the "W.D. 'Bill' Manning State Veterans' Home".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, and that one additional copy be prepared for presentation to Mr. Manning, with the final two resolving clauses omitted from such copy.